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### Bookmarks: Men and Women Who Matched Mountains

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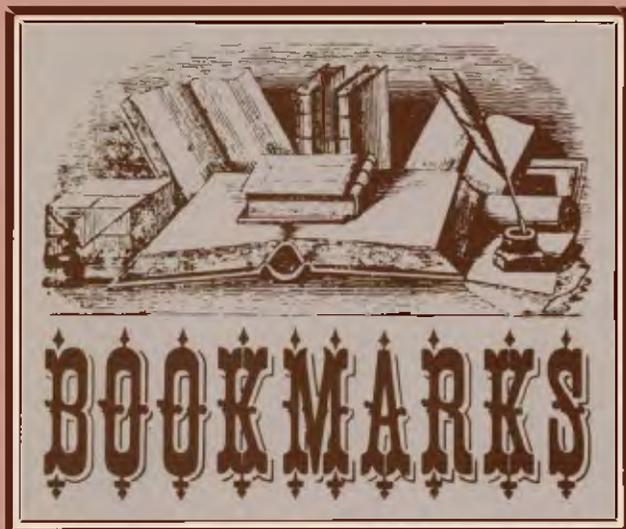
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## Men and Women who Matched Mountains

*C. Mervyn Maxwell*

Eds., Warren L. Johns, Richard H. Utt, *The Vision Bold: An Illustrated History of the Seventh-day Adventist Philosophy of Health*. Washington, D.C.: Review and Herald Publishing Association, 1977.

First off, *The Vision Bold* impresses one with its nearly three hundred illustrations, quite a number of them in color. (To some extent, the volume resembles an extra-large issue of *ADVENTIST HERITAGE*.) The pictures include numerous buildings long-since gone, nurses in uniforms long-ago outdated, and invoices of prices we can only dream of. Will Kellogg appears several times at various stages in his life, once with his physician brother in a telling pair of portraits — side by side but very different. Old street scenes turn up from the vicinity of sanitariums. San Diego's vacant lots are cluttered with For Sale signs during the drought that made possible the purchase of Paradise Valley. Many readers will be pleased to see what Mrs. John Harvey Kellogg looked like, and also Our Home on the Hillside. Most will not gag at the painting of Dr. Patin pointing with pride to the fruitage of his

*C. Mervyn Maxwell is chairman of the department of Church History at the Theological Seminary of Andrews University.*

favorite purgative

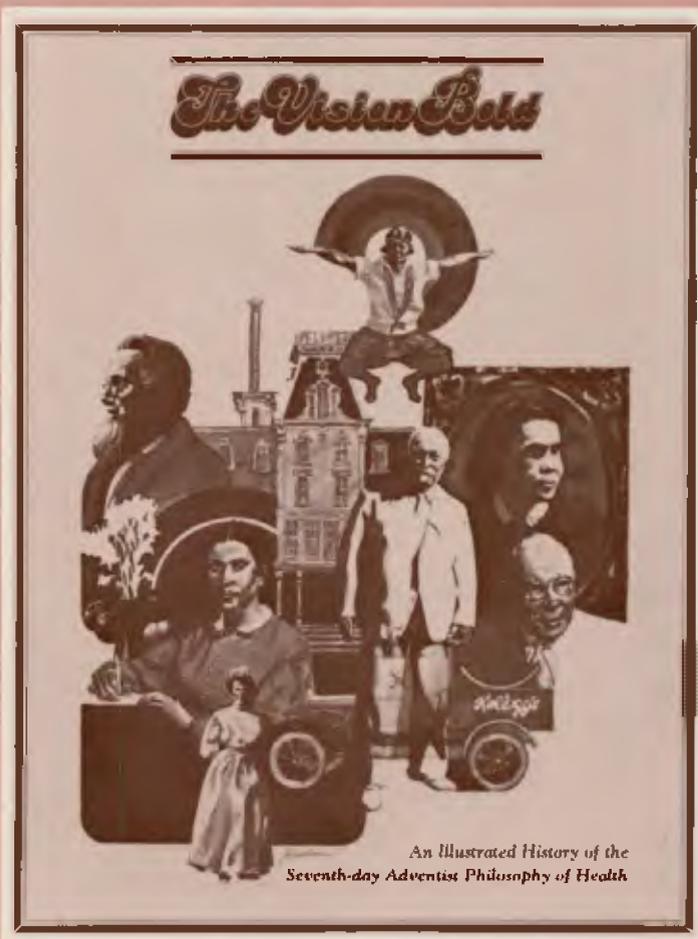
But *The Vision Bold* is much more than its illustrations. A paragraph like this by Dr. Rittenhouse is worth a thousand pictures:

If ever a man went knowingly, even joyfully, with his whole heart and his whole pocketbook into apparently hopeless debt, surely that man was John Allen Burden. He was not merely burdened with debt. He did not drift into debt or fall into it. He *marched* into debt, head held high, flags waving, bands playing. He was perhaps the only man who ever launched a major hospital with a twenty-dollar bill.

As Godfrey T. Anderson indicates in his introduction, *The Vision Bold* is primarily a "fascinating human-interest story of the beginning of the Seventh-day Adventist philosophy of health and the establishment of the church's early health centers." Men and women — J. A. Burden, Percy T. Magan, the Doctors Kress (Daniel and Lauretta), the Doctors Paulson (David and Mary), the Doctors Kellogg (John Harvey and Merritt G.), and many others — climb tall mountains because they have caught a grand vision of courageous service. They appear here as "real people who had problems and wrestled with them, who had doubts and vanquished them, who gave their time and effort in a generosity almost unbelievable today."

Six authors, selected with an eye to geography and genealogy, have contributed chapters. The range of their topics indicates the book's scope. Oliver Jacques, who writes the opening chapters on Elmhaven and on nineteenth century medicine, is a great-grandson of Ellen G. White. Richard W. Schwarz, who writes the chapters on Battle Creek and on the health-food industry, is a Michigander and an expert on John Harvey Kellogg. Richard B. Lewis, who provides a chapter on the Saint Helena Sanitarium and another on the Hinsdale Sanitarium is a Californian. Eric Were, who tells about the Sydney Sanitarium and related Australasian developments, is an Australian. Floyd O. Rittenhouse, assigned to the Paradise Valley and Glendale Sanitariums, is a later-in-life Californian. W. Frederick Norwood, who does the chapters on Loma Linda, is a long-time administrator of the Loma Linda School of Medicine and its predecessor, The College of Medical Evangelists (C.M.E.). Schwarz, Rittenhouse and Norwood are historians. The others are writers in a broader sense. Sprightly paragraphs and perceptive insights help justify the varied selection.

Among the well-known greats in Adventist health history, some lesser-known greats are not overlooked. We are delighted, for instance, to learn that two girls, employed in hard times by the Sydney health cafe, secured a key secretly so they could get to work at six a.m. without their employer finding out.



Richard H Utt, editor of *THE VISION BOLD*, is a free-lance writer and editor living in Rialto, California.



But the principal "heroine" of *The Vision Bold* is Ellen G. White, often referred to affectionately as the little lady from Elmshaven. The intrepid vision of the pioneers is traced repeatedly to Ellen White's visions. Oliver Jacques, in the first paragraph of the volume, sets its theme like the opening notes of a fugue.

The scene could hardly be more improbable: an elderly five-foot-two woman engaged in heated conference with a roomful of male educators and administrators on the subject of wage scales for physicians. The fact that she is even present at such a sensitive policy session is remarkable. The administrators disagree sharply, but it is her advice that prevails. Unquestionably, the last word is hers.

It is inevitable that *The Vision Bold* should be compared with D. E. Robinson's *The Story of Our Health Message* (1943, 1955). Both volumes cover approximately the same ground and from the same general point of view. *The Vision Bold* scores generous points for its illustrations, its more up-to-date prose, and its discussion of developments. On the other hand, *The Story of Our Health Message* is far ahead in the matter of documentation. *The Vision Bold* often fails to document even cardinal quotations. Even though it does contain new material, it frequently comes across as a competent digest of readily available secondary sources.

*The Vision Bold* can also be faulted for not living up to its subtitle. It is in no sense an "Illustrated History of the Seventh-day Adventist Philosophy of Health." One wonders, indeed, what an illustrated history of such a philosophy would look like. Nothing is said about the change in philosophy which attempted to relegate courses in physical medicine and religion at C.M.E. to the level, virtually, of non-credit electives. Nothing is said about the philosophical basis for tensions between the School of Medicine and the School of Health. Scarcely nothing is said, even, about pantheism, which was at one time vitally associated with the Lying Temple concept of healthful living. Kellogg's kind of pantheism is shrugged off twice with a passing reference. Actually, both the Doctor and the Adventist ministry at large were caught up in Kellogg's pantheism for a time. Ellen White said that the situation threatened to undermine the very foundations of Adventism (1903 *General Conference Bulletin*, p. 87). Here again, *The Story of Our Health Message* takes the prize for its primary-source documentation.

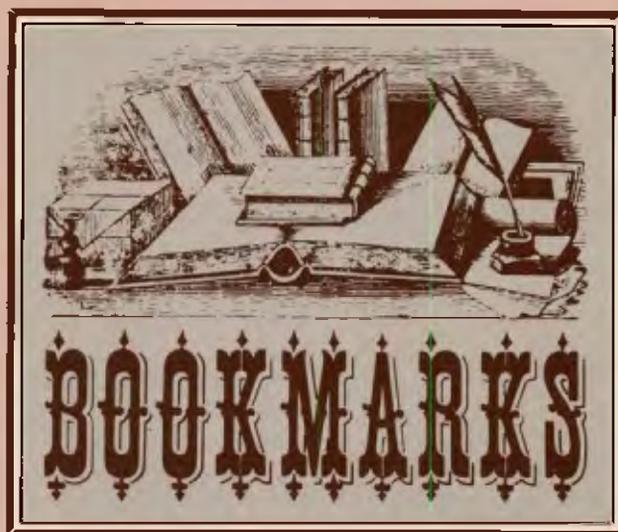
It seems to me that Professor Norwood's thoughtful and informative chapters would be even stronger if they diagnosed the "Battle Creek Syndrome" for what (in part at least) it really was, an allergic reaction to serious allergens like pervasive pantheism, pride in overbuilding, and an increasing appetite for independence. In fact, the striking ambivalence of the Adventist ministry and member-

ship towards Loma Linda throughout its history — a mixture of button-popping pride and tongue-clucking suspicion — deserves a full-length monograph by a historian who is also a psychologist and a theologian. This monograph, along with a full history of developments in the Seventh-day Adventist philosophy of health, remains to be written and needs to be.

In his otherwise splendid introduction, Dr. Anderson says that in *The Vision Bold* the "impact of the Kellogg brothers on the health program of the church is given credit long overdue." The statement is puzzling inasmuch as Dr. Schwarz, who gives the Kelloggs only two lucid chapters in this book, gave them a whole volume in 1970.

A few mistakes occur. The name of the lake on page fifty-two should be spelled "Goguac." The caption on page eighty-two should be corrected in light of the text on page eighty-one. Dr. Kellogg did not die just short of his "ninety-second" year (p. 86). He was already in his ninety-second year when he died on December 14, 1943, and was approaching his ninety-third year.

*The Vision Bold* has its flaws. Even these, however, serve admirably to remind us of work that needs to be done. And judged by what it is — a well-written and well-illustrated handbook to *The Story of Our Health Message* — *The Vision Bold* is an attractive volume that deserves a place on every Adventist caramel-coffee table.



## Legacy:

### A Medical Heritage

*Richard B. Lewis*

Richard A. Schaefer. *Legacy: The Heritage of a Unique International Medical Outreach*. Mountain View, California: Pacific Press Publishing Association, 1977.

*Legacy* is a small paperback of 240 pages with the subtitle "The Heritage of a Unique International Medical Outreach." Aside from the photographic cover design, symbolic of the medical profession, the book is without graphic illustrations, but it is rich in literary illustrations. It is not a book that the reader must finish before putting it down, but it is certainly one that the reader will return to until he has finished it.

The author, Richard Schaefer, has been employed by Loma Linda University in the office of public relations, with the responsibility of "community relations." His book is eminently readable. In addition, Schaefer's duties as a guide, telling visitors about the institution and its background, have honed his sensitivity to listener interest. The result is a book saturated with fascinating facts and incidents, making it a standout as a public relations organ.

*Legacy* has been well advertised, with widespread notices of publication. A short excerpt from one of

*Richard B. Lewis is a semi-retired professor of English at Loma Linda University*